

NEW LETTERS OF WASHINGTON

HITHERTO UNPUBLISHED WRITINGS OF FIRST PRESIDENT.

A Collection of the General's Missives.

Twenty-eight of Which Have Been Unpublished—One on Attacking New York—Lack of Confidence in Congress.

George H. Richmond, the bookseller, has come into possession of a collection of letters of George Washington, including twenty-eight never published, that he says "form a series that has not been rivalled in the memory of the present generation." They were written to Gen. Benjamin Lincoln, who was selected by the commander in chief to receive the sword of Cornwallis at Yorktown.

Most of the letters are in a fine state of preservation and several are entirely in the handwriting of Washington. Some were written by an aide and merely signed by the General. Twenty-seven of the collection have been published, in whole or in part, by Sparks in his "Writings of George Washington," but, as Mr. Richmond remarks, so altered in form that there is "almost as much Sparks as Washington in the manuscript."

Chief among the unpublished letters are two comprising twenty-two closely written pages larger than the ordinary. In the first Washington, preparing for a campaign against New York, writes of the necessity of having everything in readiness and of means of filling the ranks of the army and providing ways for its sustenance. He says, occasionally lapsing into orthography of the phonetic sort:

"As the completion of our Battalions as early as possible is a matter of the utmost importance, and as the success of recruiting them will depend greatly on putting the business in a proper train of execution while the Legislature is sitting: I take the liberty to ask whether it will not be the surest and speediest and best mode of transacting this business to send an officer of rank & reputation with the necessary returns & circular letters particularly, as the bulk of our recruits is expected from them."

The appearance of earnestness manifested in sending a gentleman purposely on the business, will have a more powerful influence upon the execution of the States in furnishing those articles, than that it will not be improper for the same gentleman, who goes upon the business of recruiting the army, to touch upon the subject of supplies also—I shall in a circular letter to the States request the attention of the States to the second application of Congress, & of the Financier—Could the Financier give an assurance that the first production of the Tax would be applied to the payment of the troops, I doubt not it would have a more powerful influence upon the States, who are I believe presently importuned by both officers and men of their respective lines for pay.

At the conclusion of this letter Washington asks:

Will it be good policy to issue a proclamation inviting all Deserters from the Continental Army in the Service of the enemy to return to the service and would not it be good policy in Congress to recommend to the States to pass acts of Grace in favor of such of their Subjects in the Military Service of the enemy as would return by a given time? It is thought this would operate powerfully in reducing their Provincial Corps.

The second long letter is in response to one from Washington to Lincoln in regard to a proposed assault on New York, and is dated at Newburgh. The General, probably recalling the defeats of Lincoln in the South, appears to think that he is somewhat too sanguine. Mr. Richmond expresses surprise that this letter should have been overlooked by the biographers. The essential part of it follows:

Your private letter of the 2nd inst., came to my hands the 20th inst. by Doct'r Craik—I am much indebted to you for the sentiments & calculations contained in it. You have however, if my information, and estimation of the enemies strength and disposition, and the good deal short of their numbers, and if I may be allowed to ground an opinion upon present appearances, information and past experience—I should think you have greatly over rated our prospects. Consequently, that which either of us had in mind in your mind constituted all the difficulty in mine, in pointing the operations of the present campaign towards New York.

I am persuaded the Enemy have not, at this time, less than 2000 regular Troops in New York and its Dependencies, including their established Provincial Corps—and by a report from the Commandant of that place to Lord George Germain in the Winter of 1782, when they expected an attack from us, it appears that of City Militia Volunteer Companies, and some other small Corps which were made: exclusive of Marines, Sailors & Delancys refugees, they had in arms, regularly organized for the moment, 7000 men. These added to their regular force make a body of 12,300 independent of their Southern army; which I estimate at 4000 more; making altogether 16,300 besides Sailors & Marines.

But as an augmentation of the force in New York is, as yet, only problematical, I will suppose that the Enemy do not mean to withdraw their Southern Garrisons and that no reinforcements will arrive from Europe, which is the most favourable point of view the matter can be placed in—we still have besides Sailors & Marines which always will be more or less according to the number of Ships in the Harbor 12,300 in opposition to us, in force, and are growing in consistency and strength every day.

You think, and I very readily concur with you in opinion, that the Besiegers ought to be at least three times the number of the besieged. Upon European principles, if New York was regularly fortified, we ought to have as 5 or 6, to 1. But I will set it at the lowest; and without demanding anything for Marines or Sailors, the number of men required will be 37,170.

Upon the whole, altho I have not made up my mind fully upon the impracticability of attacking New York, I am inclined to believe that without the aid of 50,000 or 60,000 Troops in addition to those in Virginia we should find the Conquest of that place an arduous task—and that if the enemy can centre their force at it, it will be scarcely possible with any means as I expect to be possessed of. However as these thoughts are thrown together more, than as expressions of my opinion, I shall be obliged to you for your remarks with the utmost freedom & candour, as it is from discussions of this sort the judgment is informed, and plans become properly matured.

An undated page, entirely in Washington's handwriting, indorsed by Gen. Lincoln. Private memorandum of Gen. Washington. "I assign Congress for injustice to the army. Evidently the Father of his Country was feeling somewhat warm."

Can these things fail to irritate?—and irritate are they not pregnant with mischief? Is it policy? . . . Should men who have endured more & received less of their pay than any other class of People in public Service have so little consideration or attention paid to their interest & comforts?

Would to God false policy inattention—something else, may mean as I expect to be possessed of. However as these thoughts are thrown together more, than as expressions of my opinion, I shall be obliged to you for your remarks with the utmost freedom & candour, as it is from discussions of this sort the judgment is informed, and plans become properly matured.

That he was not in accord with Congress is illustrated by a two page letter in the handwriting of an aide, privately advocating the proposition that Major Villermand, but declining to urge it publicly before Congress for these reasons:

ORDEAL OF AMBASSADOR BRYCE

FIRE AWAY, HE SAYS TO A SWARM OF LONGSHORE REPORTERS.

With His Back Against the Oceanic's Starboard Rail—Not to Be Drawn on Matters Political and Forensic No War Between the United States and Japan.

The Right Hon. James Bryce, British Ambassador to the United States, was a passenger on the White Star steamship Oceanic, which reached her pier at 9:30 o'clock yesterday morning. He was glad to get here, he said. Before he had had a chance to get his luggage together Sir Percy Sanderson, British Consul-General, and C. Clyde Bayley, British Consul, clambered aboard and welcomed the Ambassador.

"No glad to see you," said Sir Percy. "Thank you very much," replied Mr. Bryce, and they shook hands. Then Mr. Bayley took the proffered hand of the Ambassador and for a moment there was nothing said. Col. Jerome of the customs service relieved the situation by remarking that there would be no trouble about the examination of luggage and after all the other passengers had gone down the gangplank Mr. Bryce followed.

"Had there been any entertainment arranged for Mr. Bryce?" was a question that was put to Sir Percy. "Mr. Bryce is going to headquarters," replied Sir Percy, and as soon as possible Mr. Bryce and his wife took a cab for Jersey City, where they got a train for Washington.

But Mr. Bryce had not escaped the interviewers. They met him at Quarantine and swarmed about him. The Ambassador took a position against the rail amidships on the starboard side, threw back the lapels of his fur lined greatcoat and said: "Fire away, but don't be too hard on me."

"This must be an ordeal for you," remarked one of the more sympathetic reporters. "It is, and I hope that you won't keep me on the rack too long," said Mr. Bryce. "But you are in a safe place," ventured a passenger who, having been venturing, had joined the bunch of reporters.

Mr. Bryce smiled. "I don't know a safer place than the rail of the Oceanic, in mid-ocean or near to land," he ventured. But there was no one who would say that the Ambassador had been the least seashell on the way over.

"Mr. Bryce, did you have a good trip?" asked the most ready of the interviewers. "Excellent. I am sure," he replied. "And you like the mission that brings you here this time?"

Witness smiles and answers: "Do you think that I should have accepted the mission had it not appeared enjoyable?" "Have you any express message from the King to the President?"

"Anything that has passed between the King and me is of necessity a secret." "What is the feeling in England toward the United States?"

"There has never been anything but the best of feeling, so far as I remember, and it has been thirty-six years since I first came here. But I will say that while here I will do all in my power to further the relations that have existed for so long. It will be a task not in the least difficult."

From the trend of the conversation Mr. Bryce said that politics was to be the theme. "I may as well say right here that I will not discuss anything of a political nature," said he.

"Will you not tell us what would be the position of Great Britain in the event of a war between this country and Japan?" Mr. Bryce's reply to this question was the most decisive of all his rejoinders. "I do not intend to contemplate any such eventuality," said he.

"Is there any difference in the relations between this country and England since the 'Swetnam' affair?" "If there was any difference before the Kingston affair I am not aware of it. I am quite sure that the relations between the two countries are growing closer and closer. Anyway, the Kingston affair, as you are pleased to term it, has blown over, has it not?"

Some one asked Mr. Bryce if he contemplated gathering material for additions to his book "The American Commonwealth." He said that he had plenty of official duties to keep him in the dry line of duty, but that he had gathered enough to keep the book up to date.

"Every one everywhere is astonished at the progress of the country; they should be kept informed," he said. Then Mr. Bryce referred his interlocutors to the report of his remarks at the Pilgrims' Dinner before the people of his country. The expression of his feeling for the country would be found there, he declared. He had the good fortune of knowing President Cleveland, and he knew some of the secretaries. In leaving England he had parted with many warm friends, but he had gathered enough to keep the book up to date.

FIRE DRILL NEATLY DONE.

Children in School 41 Didn't Mind Smoke From Blaze Near By.

Miss Katherine Bee, principal of Public School 41 on Perry street, kept the 1,500 pupils in the school at their lessons yesterday while fire burned through the six story streets near by. Smoke poured into the school building. The firemen and the police feared the boys and girls would be frightened.

Miss Beev declared she had no authority to dismiss the school without an order from the Board of Education, but Second Deputy Police Commissioner Bugher told her he would take the responsibility. While the wind was still carrying volumes of smoke from the burning of the six-story building on Greenwich and West Eleventh streets near by. Smoke poured into the school building. The firemen and the police feared the boys and girls would be frightened.

The fire started on the fourth floor of the building on Greenwich and West Eleventh streets near by. The flames spread so rapidly that many of the 200 employees in the establishment had to take to the fire escapes. The firemen arrived in the fire spread both ways, so that it was burning from the ground floor, occupied by the Monahan Express Company, to the roof. Three alarms were sounded and the firemen got the blaze under control after an hour's hard fight. The damage is estimated at \$50,000.

14 DRIVERS FINED.

Department Store Men Violated Traffic Rules—Four Others Escape.

Second Deputy Police Commissioner Bugher, Inspector Schmittberger and Sergeant McLaughlin of the traffic squad were in the Jefferson Market police court yesterday afternoon to press charges of violations of the traffic regulations against eighteen drivers, most of them employed by department stores. Magistrate Barlow told Roundman Mallon of the traffic squad in the morning session of the court that he was in the Jefferson Market police court yesterday afternoon to press charges of violations of the traffic regulations against eighteen drivers, most of them employed by department stores.

Magistrate Barlow fined fourteen of the drivers \$1 each. The remaining four escaped extending circumstances and were discharged with a reprimand. John Cunneen, former Attorney-General of this State, died yesterday in Buffalo of pneumonia. He was born in Ireland fifty-nine years ago and came to this country when he was 14 years old. He had relatives in Alton and he settled there, studied in a law office and was admitted to the bar in 1874. In 1890 he removed to Buffalo and continued to practise there. He had previously held minor political offices in Orleans and Hamilton counties.

OBITUARY.

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William Krueger, 54 years old, of 747 Hawthorne avenue, Newark, N. J., was instantly killed by his wife, Caroline, yesterday. She fired a bullet into each arm of Mr. Krueger, wife of his stepson, and then sent a ball into his own head. Before he shot himself Krueger severed arteries of both wrists with a carving knife. He is at St. Barnabas's Hospital, and despite his injuries he may recover.

The shooting occurred in the kitchen of the Krueger home, which is on the ground floor of an apartment house. It was the ending of a quarrel growing out of the discovery by Mrs. Krueger that her husband, to whom she was married in October, had a wife and two children living in Germany. Without informing her husband Mrs. Krueger began proceedings to secure a separation.

Two days ago Krueger learned what his wife was doing. He left home yesterday morning to go to work, according to Mrs. Sarah A. Peels, mother of Mrs. Krueger. He returned at 8 o'clock. About half an hour afterward Mrs. Krueger asked Mrs. Peels to come into her apartment, as she feared her husband would shoot her. Mrs. Peels went to the kitchen when Krueger emerged from a front room and went to Mrs. Krueger's room, screaming. She was hit by the first two bullets.

Krueger then pointed the weapon at his wife and fired two shots, hitting her in the right temple and in the back. Krueger then went back into the front room, reloaded his revolver and came back. Taking a carpenter's plane from the table he cut both his wrists and then put the revolver up to his cheek and fired a bullet into his head.

Mrs. Peels stood in the doorway of the kitchen while this was going on. She screamed when he cut his wrists with the knife, and he dropped the knife and picked up the revolver. She said he fell across the body of his wife.

COMMISSIONER HALEY SLIPS.

And Later Is Arrested—"The Kid" With Him, But She Went Away.

John Haley, Police Commissioner of White Plains, and a prominent merchant there, fell down the steps at Mouquin's Sixth avenue restaurant as he was going in there last night. He cut his hip and tore one ear. Policeman Upton of the Tenderloin station hurried to assist Commissioner Haley. The White Plains police official resented the offer of aid.

After threatening to have the first man locked up who touched him, Commissioner Haley produced his gold badge. At that the Tenderloin cop grabbed him and after rapping for assistance hustled him and the young woman over to the station house. There his gold badge was tenderly wrested from him, and he was dropped into a seat to await a New York Hospital ambulance. The sergeant wanted to get the name of Haley's companion, but she refused to give it. She was under a kid, and didn't care for any notoriety. After she had seen her escort taken to the hospital for repairs, she got on a street car and went away.

Haley was taken back to the station house later and locked up, charged with being intoxicated. The White Plains police headquarters was much affected when told over the telephone of the Commissioner's arrest, and said something would be done to get the boss out.

BOOK AND LINE VETERANS.

Die on the Same Day at the Same Age—Friends Since Boyhood.

LONG BRANCH, N. J., Feb. 21.—John S. West and Sidney White, two of the oldest active post and line fishermen along the Jersey coast, died here to-day within two hours. Each was 75 years old and had been active at hook and line fishing for nearly half a century. They were schoolboys together, having been born on adjoining farms. In life they chose the same vocation, were stricken with grip about three weeks ago and died on the same day. They will be buried by the same undertaker in the same cemetery.

HAS HIS OWN FATHER ARRESTED.

THIEFT CHARGE AGAINST YATES & PORTERFIELD DIRECTOR.

Son of an Old Captain in the West African Trade Says That His Patrimony Has Been Absorbed by His Trustees, Who Is Held in Jail on Larceny Charge.

Years ago Yates & Porterfield ran little sailing vessels from New York to the west coast of Africa and trading vessels on the coast and made money. The boats from New York run no longer. The little Monrovia, which used to bring the news of Liberia to New York two or three times a year, has vanished from Lloyd's American Register, and the Yates & Porterfield Trading Co., that succeeded the old firm, is winding up its business and has its office inland now, at Ridgewood, N. J. One of the directors, Charles T. Geyer, now 50 years old, was sent to the Tombs yesterday in default of \$2,000 bail, accused by Robert Porterfield Richardson, son of a captain in the old firm's employ, of embezzling part of the \$40,000 estate the captain had saved when he died twenty years ago.

Capt. Richardson's estate, according to his son, consisted of a house at 97 South Portland avenue, Brooklyn, now worth about \$8,000, and of bonds and mortgages. The house he willed to his widow, in addition to her dower right of one-third of the whole, leaving about \$20,000 to his two sons. They were not to get their share until they reached their thirtieth year. Geyer, as a friend of many years, and Robert Porterfield of the firm were named as trustees.

Geyer was Robert P. Richardson's godfather, and Richardson's second name was given to him in honor of the other trustee. When the latter died eight years ago the family left the management of their inheritance in Mr. Geyer's hands. Five years ago, according to the complaining, his brother, Frederick, reached his thirtieth year and asked for an accounting. Robert says that Geyer induced Frederick to settle for a \$6,000 second mortgage of doubtful value on some Brooklyn property and \$7,500 face value of stock in the Yates & Porterfield Trading Company.

Four months ago, the complainant says, when he, too, reached his thirtieth year, he asked for an accounting. "Geyer told me," Richardson said, "that he had dissipated the entire estate. He admitted that the shares of stock he had given to my brother were now worthless. I consulted with the District Attorney and Geyer's arrest is the result."

The technical charge against Geyer is the appropriation of \$500. All the transactions of Richardson's estate, of the estate of \$20,000, are barred by the statute of limitations. Richardson alleges that in 1902 Geyer, hearing that his Richardson and Robert had \$2,000 in bank, asked them to send that to him for investment and that they did so. Richardson lives in Philadelphia and his brother in Maryland.

BIGAMIST KILLS SECOND WIFE.

Cuts Wrists and Sends Bullet Into His Head—She Had Decided to Leave Him.

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WALDORF-ASTORIA BALL ROOM.

THE SALE BY AUCTION OF THE FISCHHOF COLLECTION.

To-Night at 8:30 and to-morrow evening at same hour.

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